



Finance Committee Annual Report 2024 – 2025

The financial decisions of the council continue to be made in the main by the Finance Committee. Councillors on the committee are generally from a business background and a pragmatic view is taken when looking at funding requests from another committee.

Our accounts are subjected to an internal audit by a qualified accountant, Sansum and Company, twice per year and by the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn, at the end of the financial year which is a legal requirement.

The primary income for the Parish Council is provided by our precept. This amount is then requested from Swindon Borough Council who then divide the amount by the number of residences in the Parish (the tax base) and collect funds via the council tax.

The parish finances remain in good shape, and our expenditure has been in line with the line budgets. Due to increases in costs of the services we provide and the inclusion of services that the SBC no longer provide, we had to increase the precept from £160,000 to £173,000. This represents an increase of 8%.

The council continues to support local charities and organisations through its grants and donations programme, details of which can be sought from the Clerk.

The finance committee has allocated further funds to the recreation hall replacement reserve, and the amount available to replace this recreation hall will stand at £168,273.38 during the 2024-25 municipal year. Monies have been spent on architects drawings, the Recreation Hall Replacement Committee having now significantly reduced the scope of this project as anticipated.

We have received CIL Payments from the SBC, which must be spent on projects in the Parish within 5 years, currently we are considering spending it on several projects including, the Recreation Hall roof (£12,500), and improving the path to Hodson.

Banking

To improve the monies available to the Parish Council and make more efficient use of our reserves we have created an additional saving account with the CCLA, which pays a much better rate of interest, and we are able to move funds between it and our current account as needed.

Accounts

The accounts will be audited internally in the next month by our internal auditors, Sansum and Co Ltd and then by external auditors, PKF Littlejohn.

Further information on the finances of the Parish can be obtained from the Parish Clerk or the Finance committee.

I wish to extend my thanks to all finance committee members past and present and our Clerk and RFO for their work during the year.

Cllr Ian Kearsey

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